

Claims:

Claims 1 – 35: Cancelled.

36. (Currently amended): An apparatus for monitoring a computing device, said apparatus comprising one or more stages adapted to receive one or more signals from a controlled computing device, determine whether an error condition is present in said controlled computing device from said one or more signals, and generate an error indicator upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device, wherein said one or more signals comprise an output data signal from said controlled computing device and wherein said output data signal is received by said one or more stages from a serial port on said controlled computing device, and
~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said one or more stages are adapted to perform one of the following to determine if an error condition is present in said controlled computing device: (i) a first string detection method, wherein said one or more stages are adapted to determine whether said output data signal comprises a prespecified string of characters, and wherein said one or more stages are further adapted to generate said error indicator if said output data signal comprises said prespecified string of characters; and (ii) a second string detection method, wherein said one or more stages are adapted to determine whether said output data signal has not comprised a prespecified string of characters within a prespecified interval, and wherein said one or more stages are further adapted to generate said error indicator if said output data signal has not comprised said prespecified string of characters within said prespecified interval.~~

37. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said apparatus comprises software that uses said error indicator to generate a message.

38. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 37 further comprising a storage device, wherein said message comprises data for a log record for storing in said storage device.

39. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein said data comprises a date and a time that indicates when said error condition was determined.

40. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein said apparatus is coupled to a network, and wherein said message is sent to a user through said network.

41. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said message is an electronic mail message comprising details of said error condition.

42. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said apparatus coupled to a relay through a relay connection, wherein said relay is coupled to both said controlled computing device and a power source for said controlled computing device, wherein said relay is moveable between a first position and a second position, wherein in said first position, said relay causes said power source to be coupled to said controlled computing device, wherein in said second position, said relay causes said power source to be decoupled from said controlled computing device, wherein said one or more stages are adapted to control the movement of said relay between said first and second positions, and wherein upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device, the following steps are performed:

- (i) said relay is moved to said second position if said relay is in said first position, such that said controlled computing device is powered off; and
- (ii) said relay is moved from said second position to said first position after (i) is performed, such that said controlled computing device is powered on.

Claims 43 – 59: Cancelled.

60. (Currently amended): An apparatus for monitoring a computing device, said apparatus comprising one or more stages adapted to:

- (a) receive one or more signals from a controlled computing device;

- (b) determining whether an error condition is present in said controlled computing device from said one or more signals; and
- (c) generating an error indicator upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device;

wherein said one or more stages are adapted to generate one or more test signals, wherein said one or more test signals are transmitted to said controlled computing device and are used to determine if an error condition is present in said controlled computing device, and wherein said one or more first signals comprise signals that are generated by said controlled computing device in response to said one or more test signals, and ~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 43,~~ wherein said controlled computing device is a web server, wherein said one or more test signals comprise a request to retrieve a web page, wherein said one or more stages are adapted to determine whether a web page was not successfully retrieved from said controlled computing device in response to said request to retrieve said web page, and wherein said one or more stages are further adapted to generate said error indicator if said web page was not successfully retrieved from said controlled computing device in response to said request to retrieve said web page.

61. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein said apparatus comprises software that uses said error indicator to generate a message.

62. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 61 further comprising a storage device, wherein said message comprises data for a log record for storing in said storage device.

63. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said data comprises a date and a time that indicates when said error condition was determined.

64. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said apparatus is coupled to a network, and wherein said message is sent to a user through said network.

65. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 64, wherein said message is an electronic mail message comprising details of said error condition.

66. (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein said apparatus coupled to a relay through a relay connection, wherein said relay is coupled to both said controlled computing device and a power source for said controlled computing device, wherein said relay is moveable between a first position and a second position, wherein in said first position, said relay causes said power source to be coupled to said controlled computing device, wherein in said second position, said relay causes said power source to be decoupled from said controlled computing device, wherein said one or more stages are adapted to control the movement of said relay between said first and second positions, and wherein upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device, the following steps are performed:

- (i) said relay is moved to said second position if said relay is in said first position, such that said controlled computing device is powered off; and
- (ii) said relay is moved from said second position to said first position after (i) is performed, such that said controlled computing device is powered on.

Claims 67 – 86: Cancelled.

87. (Currently amended): A method of monitoring a computing device, the method comprising the steps of: (a) receiving a plurality of signals generated by a controlled computing device; (b) determining from said plurality of signals whether an error condition is present in said controlled computing device; and (c) generating an error indicator upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device; wherein said plurality of signals comprise an output data signal from said controlled computing device, wherein said output data signal is provided by a serial port on said controlled computing device, and ~~The method as claimed in claim 86, wherein one of the following is performed to determine if an error condition is present in said controlled computing device: (i) a first string detection method, wherein step (b) comprises determining whether said output data signal comprises a prespecified string~~

of characters, and wherein step (c) comprises generating said error indicator if said output data signal comprises said prespecified string of characters as determined at step (b); ~~and a second string detection method wherein step (b) comprises determining whether said output data signal has not comprised a prespecified string of characters within a prespecified interval, and wherein step (c) comprises generating said error indicator if said output data signal has not comprised said prespecified string of characters within said prespecified interval as determined at step (b).~~

88. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 87, wherein said error indicator is used to generate a message.

89. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 88, wherein said message comprises data for a log record for storing in a storage device.

90. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 89, wherein said data comprises a date and a time, wherein said date and time indicates when said error condition was determined at step (b).

91. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 88, wherein said message is sent to a user through a network.

92. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 91, wherein said message is an electronic mail message.

93. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 87, wherein a relay is coupled to both said controlled computing device and a power source for said controlled computing device, and wherein upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device, the following steps are performed:

- (i) said relay is moved to a second position if said relay is in said first position, such that said controlled computing device is powered off; and

- (ii) after step (i) is performed, said relay is moved from said second position to said first position, such that said controlled computing device is powered on.

Claims 94 – 109: Cancelled.

110. (Currently amended): A method of monitoring a computing device, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a plurality of signals generated by a controlled computing device;
- (b) determining from said plurality of signals whether an error condition is present in said controlled computing device; and
- (c) generating an error indicator upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device;

wherein said method also comprises the steps of generating one or more test signals, and transmitting said one or more test signals to said controlled computing device to determine if an error condition is present in said controlled computing device, wherein said plurality of signals received at step (a) comprise signals that are generated by said controlled computing device in response to said one or more test signals, and ~~The method as claimed in claim 94,~~ wherein said controlled computing device is a web server, wherein said one or more test signals comprise a request to retrieve a web page, wherein step (b) comprises determining whether a web page was not successfully retrieved from said controlled computing device in response to said request to retrieve said web page, and wherein step (c) comprises generating said error indicator if said web page was not successfully retrieved from said controlled computing device in response to said request to retrieve said web page as determined at step (b).

111. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 110, wherein said error indicator is used to generate a message.

112. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 111, wherein said message comprises data for a log record for storing in a storage device.

113. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 112, wherein said data comprises a date and a time, wherein said date and time indicates when said error condition was determined at step (b).

114. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 111, wherein said message is sent to a user through a network.

115. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 114, wherein said message is an electronic mail message.

116. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 110, wherein a relay is coupled to both said controlled computing device and a power source for said controlled computing device, and wherein upon determining that an error condition is present in said controlled computing device, the following steps are performed:

- (i) said relay is moved to a second position if said relay is in said first position, such that said controlled computing device is powered off; and
- (ii) after step (i) is performed, said relay is moved from said second position to said first position, such that said controlled computing device is powered on.

Claims 117 – 119: Cancelled.

120. (New) An apparatus for remotely monitoring and controlling of a computing device, said apparatus comprising one or more stages adapted to:

- (a) receive one or more first signals from a controlled computing device coupled to said apparatus;
- (b) receive one or more second signals over a network connection from a selected user of said plurality of users;
- (c) transmit at least one of said one or more first signals to said selected user of said plurality of users over said network connection; and

- (d) transmit said one or more second signals to said controlled computing device;

wherein said apparatus is adapted to permit remote monitoring and controlling of said computing device contemporaneously by said plurality of users.

121. (New): An apparatus for remotely monitoring and controlling a plurality of computing devices contemporaneously, said apparatus comprising one or more stages adapted to:

- (a) receive one or more first signals from a selected controlled computing device of said plurality of computing devices coupled to said apparatus;
- (b) receive one or more second signals from a user over a network connection;
- (c) transmit at least one of said one or more first signals to said user over said network connection; and
- (d) transmit said one or more second signals to said selected controlled computing device;

wherein said apparatus further comprises a multiplexer coupled to said plurality of computing devices for permitting said user to select said controlled computing device to be monitored from said plurality of computing devices.

122. (New): An apparatus for remotely monitoring and controlling a plurality of computing devices contemporaneously, said apparatus comprising one or more stages adapted to:

- (a) receive one or more first signals from a selected controlled computing device of said plurality of computing devices coupled to said apparatus;
- (b) receive one or more second signals over a network connection from a selected user of a plurality of users;
- (c) transmit at least one of said one or more first signals to said selected user of said plurality of users over said network connection; and
- (d) transmit said one or more second signals to said controlled computing device;

wherein said apparatus further comprises a plurality of multiplexers coupled to said plurality of computing devices, wherein said plurality of multiplexers permits each of said plurality of users to select a controlled computing device to be monitored from said plurality of computing devices, and wherein said apparatus is adapted to permit remote monitoring and controlling of said plurality of computing devices contemporaneously by said plurality of users.